



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant to US Attorney
Daryl Fields, Public Affairs Officer
610 N.W. Loop 410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
(210) 384-7452

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**FORMER SOUTHWEST AIRLINES EMPLOYEE AND HUSBAND INDICTED IN
FRAUD SCHEME**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that a federal grand jury in San Antonio, Texas has indicted Althea Holden Jackson and her husband James Jackson for their role in a scheme to defraud her employer, Southwest Airlines. Also indicted were Lance Williams, David Anderson, Luis Vasquez, Dewayne Clayton, and Tash Mathis.

According to the indictment, Althea Jackson, while employed as an Administrative Assistant in the executive offices of Southwest Airlines would order Southwest Airlines Non Revenue Must Ride (NRMR) tickets from the ticketing department ostensibly for the purpose of thanking Southwest passengers who assisted flight crews in the performance of their in-flight duties, including rendering aid to passengers who sustained injuries or became ill while onboard a Southwest Airlines flight. The indictment further alleges that rather than following established Airline protocol and mailing NRMR tickets along with a letter of appreciation to deserving passengers, Althea Jackson, fraudulently obtained these NRMR tickets and kept them for her own purposes.

The government alleges that Ms. Jackson and her husband James Jackson created an informal distribution system through friends, relatives, acquaintances and James Jackson's co-workers at the Bexar County Justice Center where he was employed as a deputy sheriff. The Jackson's used this distribution system for financial gain by selling Southwest Airlines NRMR tickets at prices that were substantially less than the price that Southwest could command for the same ticket in the market place. Over 5,600 of these NRMR tickets were acquired fraudulently by Althea Jackson and distributed by her and her co-conspirators.

This case is being investigated by the United States Secret Service and is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Bill Baumann.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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